# DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

#### **CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

## SAFETY DIRECTIVE

James F. Ritter
Director of Safety

COVID19-SD-3a-061320 Revision Date: New Issue

### **Physical Distancing in Vehicles**

<u>CTDOT COVID19 Safety Directives</u> – COVID19 Safety Directives issued by the CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety may be revised, as needed, in response to updated or emerging requirements and guidance. Specific requirements or steps in any CTDOT COVID19 Safety Directive may be adapted to meet the specific needs of a COVID19 case, with the approval of the CTDOT Division of Occupational Health and Safety.

These requirements are not intended to limit the Department's response capabilities to emergencies or mission critical tasks. Unforeseen emergency situations may warrant a deviation from the requirements established here. Any questions should be directed to your Supervisors and/or Manager.

#### **Vehicle Occupancy Limitations**

To limit exposure to COVID-19 while in a vehicle, Department employees will make every effort to follow the steps below when using vehicles or operating equipment.

- The goal is to have no more than one person per vehicle.
- Under no circumstances is there to be more than 2 people in any single vehicle without the specific authority of the supervisor or manager.
- In multiple row vehicles such as vans or crew cabs, no more than two persons shall occupy a single row in a vehicle.
- The passenger shall sit on passenger's side of the vehicle in the furthest rear row from the vehicle operator when possible.
- Face coverings must be worn by all employees while in the vehicle. A face covering is not required when the
  operator is alone.

#### **Before and After Operating a Department Vehicle**

#### **Cleaning Instructions**

- The CDC recommends cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touch points at least daily.
- Focus on common high frequency touch point on both the inside and outside of the vehicle.
- Common touch points include; vehicle door handles, key fobs, turn signals, steering wheel, door buttons, seat belts, gear shifter and touchscreens.
- Keep the vehicle dashboard clean and free of clutter.
- Whenever possible set the climate control settings so that fresh air is brought in from the outside of the vehicle or have the windows partially open to provide additional ventilation.
- Do not recirculate the air.
- When possible wear gloves when filling the fuel tank and use hand sanitizer after touching gas pump handles and keypads.

#### **EAP Lexington Group**

In these stressful times it is important that employees are reminded that the Lexington Group, EAP Program, is available and offers a variety of benefits and services to assist employees and their dependents in their time of need and/or their dependents is struggling to adjust to changes associated with COVID-19. Their number is 1-800-676-HELP (4357).

#### **Enforcement Actions**

Employee noncompliance to established CTDOT COVID19 Health and Safety Requirements may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Personnel Memorandum 99-3 Enforcement of Safety Practices.

#### For more information about the COVID19 virus go to:

CTDOT Specific Information - <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info">https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/StaffCOVID/Info</a>
State of Connecticut Information - <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus">https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus</a>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</a>